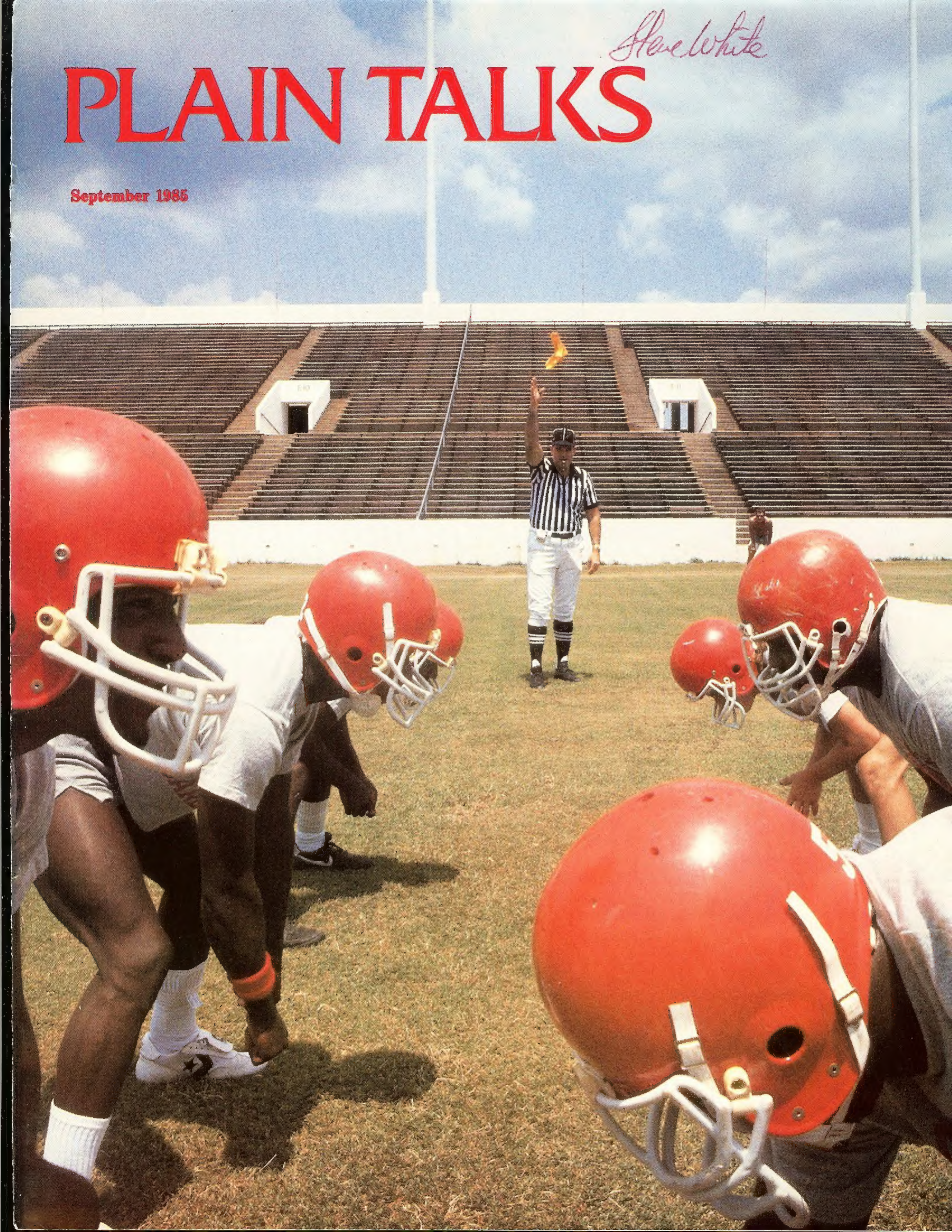


Steve White

PLAIN TALKS

September 1985



Volume 64

Number 8

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THE COVER

Football — it's a favorite fall sport for many GSUers.

James "Jim" Dowies, supervisor-payment processing, does more than watch from the stands.

A 31-year GSU veteran, Dowies has officiated for basketball and football games for 32 years, including six years at the college level.

The Orange resident says it is his way "of giving back to sports what I've gotten from them."

Read more about the referee on the back cover. Both the front and back cover photographs of Dowies and the Lamar University Cardinals were shot by Susan Gilley.

PLAIN TALKS

September 1985

Published for employees and retirees of Gulf States Utilities Company. Address all communications to PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (409) 838-6631.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

River Bend Operating License

WE DID IT! YES, WE DID IT ... TOGETHER

Editor's note:

On August 29, 1985, we, the people of Gulf States Utilities, reached a major milestone toward bringing the River Bend nuclear plant into commercial operation. On that day the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued our company an operating license to permit fuel loading and low-power testing.

As with any other worthwhile accomplishment, this did not come easy. It took six years from the official start of construction for us to receive this license. Six years of teamwork and pulling together. Yes, it seemed like a long time to us. But as nuclear plants go, it was actually a short time — three years shorter, in fact, than other comparable nuclear units which are being built or have been recently completed. And we can be proud of that.

We can be proud that we did it ... and we did it together.

An important thank you letter from William J. Cahill, Jr., senior vice president - River Bend Nuclear Group, follows.

To: Dr. Paul W. Murrill
Chairman of the Board

Today the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued an operating license to Gulf States Utilities for River Bend Unit No. 1. This event marks the realization of a major goal of the River Bend Group. We are proud of this achievement which was accomplished through the skill, hard work and perseverance of the people in the River Bend Group and our major contractors, General Electric and Stone & Webster. However, we could not have reached this goal without the help of ALL THE PEOPLE OF GSU. That help ranged from the policy direction, guidance and encouragement that the Board of Directors, you and Norman Lee gave, to that of EVERY GSU EMPLOYEE who spoke favorably of the project to friends and neighbors. Each of the departments of the Company contributed in some way to our achievement. I can't enumerate all of the instances, but the following are illustrative:

Financial Services provided the funds to build the plant and Accounting Services provided indispensable matrixed employees for our cost and scheduling work. Human Resources, in addition to supporting us with all of their services, helped to provide timely staffing for the plant during a critical period of shortage and intense recruiting competition. Computer Applications worked in cooperation with us to provide services and help in resolving our computer problems.

Engineering and Technical Services was involved in the original plant design and provided support and consultation throughout the project, for example, their help in setting up emergency communications was indispensable. The Fuel Department provided uranium procurement service. Risk Management, in addition to their regular services, provided special help in the fire protection area. Public Affairs was continually in close support and cooperation with the project.

Internal Audits worked with the project to assure that proper controls and procedures were established and followed. Power Interconnections administered the co-ownership arrangements with Cajun. Louisiana Operations provided us with support in community affairs, political affairs and, most importantly, afforded us a friendly association with the Company, its customs, traditions and people. They also did an outstanding job in the speedy erection of the emergency sirens.

These examples do not come close to covering the extent of support that the WHOLE COMPANY has given us. We know that EVERYBODY HELPED and WE THANK YOU.

William J. Cahill, Jr.



Training, management development: one key to efficient operations

by Susan Gilley

Training and developing employees is a year-round business activity for Gulf States for a very simple reason.

The more employees understand about how to do a job and how to communicate effectively, the better equipped they are to help GSU operate efficiently and safely.

Ed Loggins, senior executive vice president, says, "There is no place for mediocrity in utility operations. Times are tough, and we must have the best management — of people and finances — and a high degree of creativity."

Loggins adds, "Our company goals and objectives are based around good service to our customers at a reasonable price, productive and enjoyable work

for our employees and a proper return to our shareholders. Every department is there to support these goals. Well trained and highly motivated employees can make our goals attainable."

Two corporate professionals are responsible for GSU's education of employees. Jim Kelly is the supervisor of management development. Don Zick is the manager of training. Both Zick and Kelly report to the general manager of the Organization and Manpower Development Section.

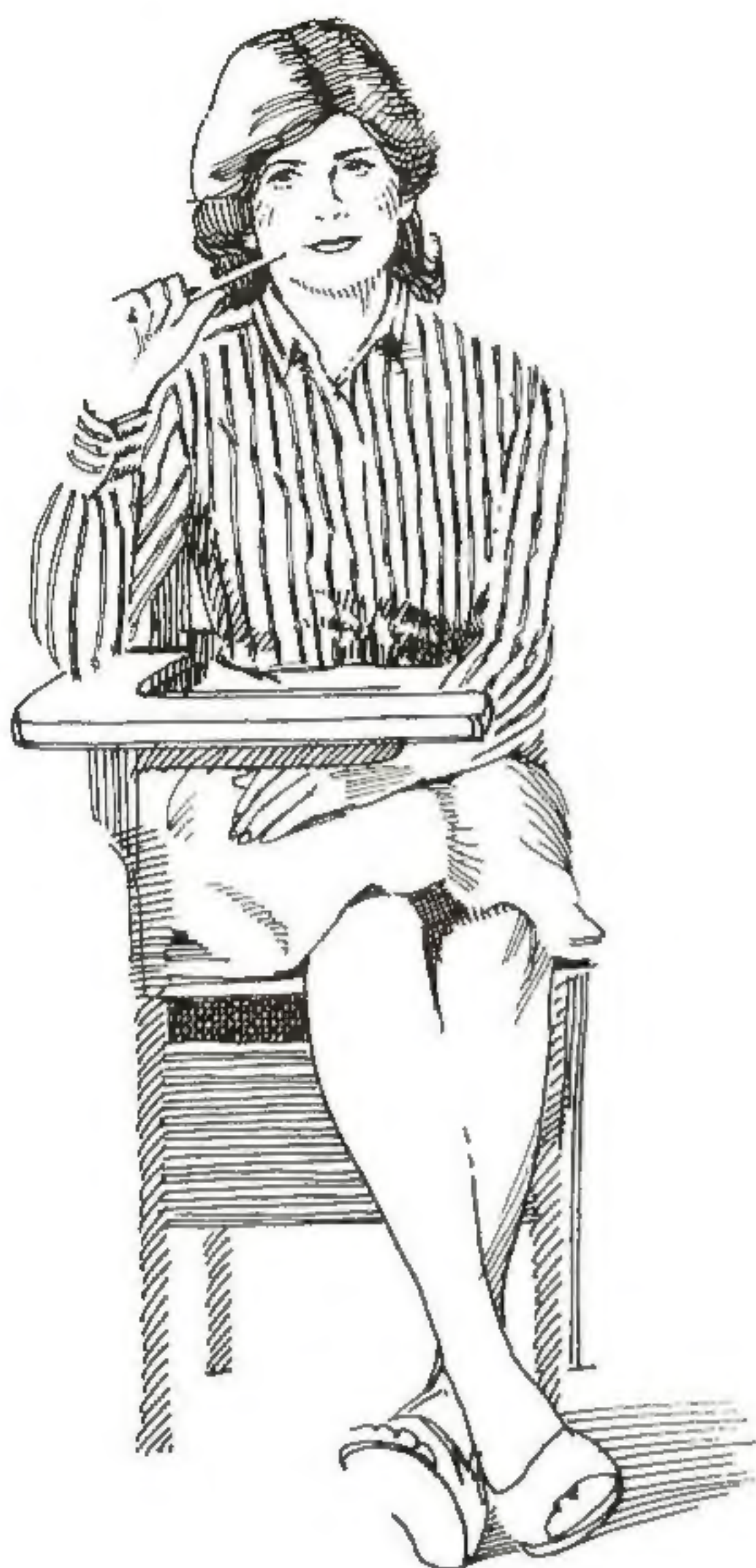
Kelly defines the difference between development and training. "Training involves those activities you do to teach people how to do the jobs they're in now. Development can include training, but it encompasses *all* the activities that go into broadening an employee's knowl-

edge so that he or she can take on additional responsibilities or grow in the present position."

Kelly continues, "Management development is a line management responsibility, just like budgeting, planning and operations. I don't think that responsibility should be delegated to a staff group any more than any other line responsibility."

"Our role," he insists, "is that of internal consultants who advise and assist line managers in developing their people. This role sometimes requires us to become directly involved in developmental activities, but we always do so with direction and approval of line management."

The steps to preparing a developmental program include deciding on the critical knowledges and skills required for a



a job and determining the level of performance or knowledge needed for effective performance. Next, supervisors must measure people against those requirements and then develop a plan to improve any deficiencies.

According to Zick, training is necessary on a multitude of job-related skills to improve employees' abilities to "safely do a quality job for longer lasting, more efficient operations."

At River Bend, Dale Andrews, director-nuclear training, supports the corporate training effort.

Many times, employees must be trained in certain procedures to comply with federal and state regulations, especially at River Bend Station. Training plays a critical role in getting the nuclear power plant into commercial operation, company officials emphasize. GSU carries out a comprehensive needs analysis

that results in training that not only provides the necessary skills but also meets all governmental and corporate standards.

Also supporting the corporate training effort is the operator development group in Production, which focuses on training people in very specific areas of power plant operations and procedures. Zick's group provides generic production training. The bottom line is efficiency of operations. Production uses long-term trends to show whether operator development is doing a good job. Factors that are trended on a long-term basis are heat rate, unit availability, capacity factor, man-hours devoted to training and training costs.

All of those interviewed agree that measurement of success is sometimes difficult, but always necessary, for effective development and training.

Zick adds, "I measure the success of training in four basic ways. Two are by checking the reaction of participants to a program and through pre- and post-testing.

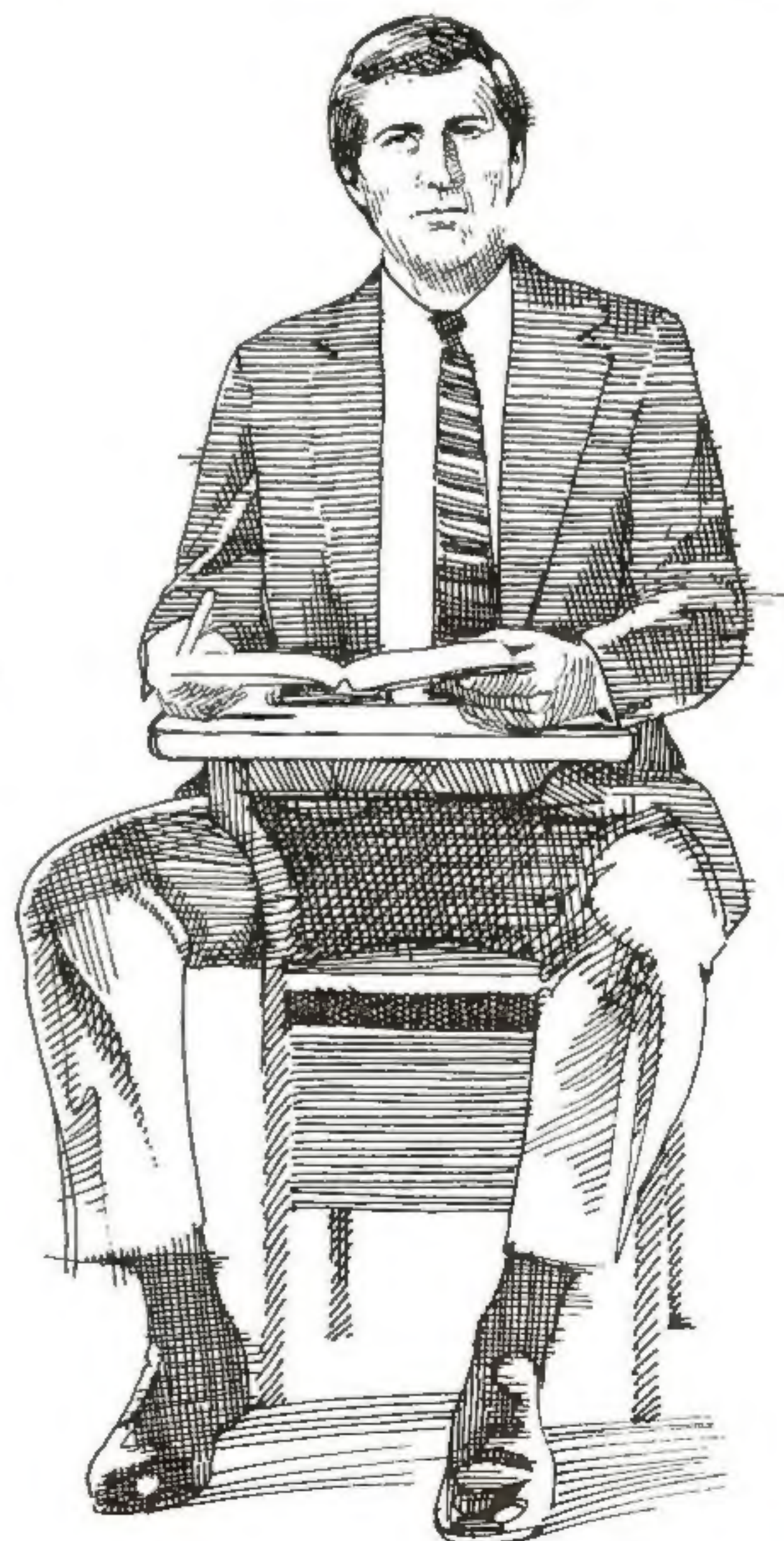
"Much harder to gauge are behavior change and overall results. An example of overall results might be turnover. If turnover decreases, that may be one indication that training is helping to keep those employees."

Zick, discussing learning principles, points out, "Teaching adults is really different from teaching children. Children come to a class expecting to be handed information for future use, while adults come with all kinds of previous experience and want to use the new information immediately."

And, Zick reports, "The old saying, 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks,' is baloney in terms of the brain's ability, but sometimes it's not baloney in terms of attitude."

Zick describes his most important method for measuring the effectiveness of training efforts. "We have a core program review panel meeting every three months that is made up of program participants, line management, training management and instructors. Each person is selected because of his or her familiarity with the subject area. At the meeting — usually one day in length — all aspects of the program are thoroughly examined. We cover course content, field training, the method of training, the instructor, etc. Then, the panel comes up with a proposal to top operating management about whether training should be modified, continued or discontinued."

Also, one of corporate training's formal goals for the first seven months of 1985 was to focus on training quality. In this





Ron Webb (right), repairman-2nd class at Sabine Station, participated in a recent mechanical maintenance class taught by John Kunefke, training representative.

effort, members of Zick's staff were assigned one or more of 16 core programs to examine, fine-tune and report on regarding improvements made.

Training represents a major corporate commitment to developing GSU employees and improving company operations. In 1984, Zick reports, management development and training in all areas completed programs for 8,359 participants (some employees participate in more than one class), involving 288,534 person-hours. That means, on the average, that employees spend

2.77 percent of their working hours in training or development activities.

Kelly cautions that the latest approach to management development may not be the best approach. "Fads often come down the road that are supposed to be the final answer, but then they fade and something else replaces them." The key, says Kelly, is to select those approaches that will work and adapt them to the needs of the organization.

Andrews recognizes that responsibility at River Bend

Station. "A nuclear plant is so complex and its operations are so interrelated that employees must understand the design of the plant before operating or maintaining it. In training these employees, we're responsible for keeping the plant on line with a minimum of downtime."

And that challenge, he says, makes training and development of employees "an investment of time and money that pays a large return in smoothness and efficiency of operations."

Bank hosts Edison memorabilia

Citizens of Beaumont had the opportunity to do their banking and see a bit of history at the same time. Texas Commerce Bank (TCB) invited the Edison Plaza Museum to display some of its collection of Thomas Edison artifacts in its lobby for six weeks beginning in early September. William W. Phillips, Jr., TCB senior board chairman, said, "...I

can think of no other American who could surpass the effect of Thomas Edison in inspiring our youth to develop and use their minds to their fullest extent."

From Edison's 1,093 inventions, Joe DeJean, museum administrator, selected items which people readily identify with Edison, such as an old phonograph and a carbon-filament light bulb circa 1895 which still works. Among the other exhibits were a 1937 electric food mixer, radio, an early

electric fan, various household appliances and some early utility line hardware.

The Edison Museum was the first in a series of local museums invited to place displays in the bank lobby. "We are extremely pleased that Texas Commerce Bank showed its interest as a corporate citizen," says DeJean. "It was an excellent chance to demonstrate to the general public the educational value of the museum and the creative genius of Thomas Edison."



Nelson Coal flies safety flag

Employees of Nelson Coal celebrated their status as the safest GSU power plant in Louisiana with a shrimp boil on July 19, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Cheryl Crawford.

During the event at the Kilowatt Clubhouse, Plant Superintendent Jim Hurley congratulated everyone and urged them to "keep thinking safety" through the rest of the year.

Lewis Creek was the Texas winner.

Hoisting the safety flag at Nelson Coal are (from left) M.L. Hooper, repairman-1st class; Alan Levine, safety & health representative-production; and Jim Hurley.

Trivia question wins contest

What can increase your eyesight, double your thinking power, reduce accidents and may be the reason you make it home safely today?

Willie E. Miller of Jennings says the correct answer is "a good co-worker."

That safety trivia question and answer was the winner in the Lake Charles Division safety slogan contest this spring. Miller is a lineman-1st class.

Willie Miller (right) is congratulated by Jennings District Superintendent Al Gann for his winning safety slogan.





A tree-chewing tractor clears the right-of-way (above) before beginning the float to the next island (right). GSUer Mike Laborde checks progress with one of the contractors clearing for 500kv Line 760 (below).



Transmission:

Keeping our system flexible

Text and photos by T.J. Reyes

Henderson Swamp, located off Interstate Highway 10 near Lafayette, is a popular spot with many fishing enthusiasts. But GSUer Mike Laborde spends his time there for a different reason.

As superintendent of transmission construction, Laborde travels Henderson Swamp by boat to inspect the work of contract crews clearing the right-of-way for extra high voltage (EHV) Line #760. This 62-mile line will connect two GSU substations — Richard, near Eunice

— and Webre, located near Rosedale.

Clearing this swampy right-of-way is no easy chore. Small, tree-covered islands dot the landscape. An amphibious tractor extends an "arm" to cut and uproot trees on each island within the right-of-way before floating to the next. Progress is slow but steady, with some islands, too small for tractors, requiring clearing by hand, but the swamp water is lower than it has been for a long time.

Line #760 will be Gulf States' second 500kv transmission line

across the Atchafalaya basin.

"This new line will provide additional east-west transmission capability," says Laborde. "Our June 1988 in-service date will allow larger use of the coal-generated purchased power, power from River Bend, and other Baton Rouge-area generation."

According to Bill Barksdale, vice president of engineering and technical services, "Gulf States' transmission and distribution plans are based on providing our customers with an adequate supply of reasonably-priced energy." Projects such as EHV



Steve White (upper left) stands on a bluff overlooking the river-crossing towers that connect Gulf States with Cajun Electric, about one mile south of River Bend. Extra-special care was necessary during construction of lines 352, 354 and 355, which pass through a Civil War battleground. Located nearby is the Port Hudson National Cemetery (above). Cattle graze peacefully in the right-of-way passing through Ed Daniels' farm (lower left).

lines begin as much as 10 years in advance, he adds. A substantial lead time is needed to secure the rights-of-way, allow for delivery time of equipment and materials, and complete actual construction.

GSU's major transmission plans are based on location and size of new generation, tie-line needs, load growth patterns and system stability under varying conditions. Tie-lines, or inter-connections with neighboring utilities, make exchange of economy or emergency power possible.

While ensuring a flexible transmission system begins years prior to actual construction, the challenge of maintaining reliable service continues for the life of

the line.

In Baton Rouge, Steve White works with that challenge everyday. With about 900 miles of transmission lines and 3,700 miles of distribution lines in his division, the tree-trimming inspector covers a lot of ground. As in right-of-way clearing and transmission line construction, much of the tree-trimming work White and other inspectors oversee is done by contract crews.

"Keeping transmission lines clear of trees and other vegetation is a never-ending job," the forestry-educated GSU'er admits, "but it's necessary to provide reliable service."

According to White, a clear right-of-way is an important part

of reliability since, he says, "Tall-growing trees eventually reach energized conductors and outages result. Frequent trimming is one way to avoid that problem. But trimming is costly."

White points out herbicides applied from ground equipment or helicopter are less costly than labor-intensive, mechanical methods. "Using herbicides on rights-of-way can help keep a cap on rising maintenance costs," White explains.

White adds a word of advice, "When planting a tree, look up from the spot selected. If you can see utility lines, don't plant there because one day that tree may grow to the height of the lines. Planting it somewhere else will make line maintenance easier in future years, while also keeping a natural-looking landscape."

A

Agnew, David C., Beaumont, to staff auditor II, Internal Audits.

Armand, Percy J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Aultman, Wallace J., Gonzales, to assistant line supervisor, Electric T&D.

B

Barnes, Rodger E., River Bend Station, to senior mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Beattie, Robert E., Beaumont, to staff accountant II, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

Berzsenyi, Lillas M., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Blackwell, Carol G., Beaumont, to general clerk, Payroll.

Bodine, William B., River Bend Station, to planning & scheduling specialist, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Bookter, Herbert, Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

Browning, John M., Beaumont, to marketing agent, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Burke, Samuel G. IV, Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Butler, Peggy W., Beaumont, to section head, General Services.

Bysfield, George A., River Bend Station, to senior systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

C

Castello, Myra H., Nelson Coal, to plant chemist, Plant Production.

Chan, William T., Nelson Coal, to staff accountant I, Plant Production.

Childree, Steven G., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Clark, Tommy G., formerly of Port Arthur, to economic development research analyst, System Marketing & Consumer Services, Beaumont.

Clarke, Kevin M., Nelson Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Cole, Ronald E., formerly of Beaumont, to electrical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

Curry, Danny J., Port Allen, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Cutchin, Joseph H., River Bend Station, to systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

D

Daniel, Kevin R., Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Darensbourg, Joseph K., Beaumont, to staff accountant I, Accounting Services.

Delk, Dennis L., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

DeWeese, Claude E., River Bend Station, to chemical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Dragg, Alvin L., Gonzales, to superintendent-Gonzales, Division Operations.

E

Ellis, Cheryl R., Beaumont, to benefits associate, Human Resources.

Engler, Lloyd J., Gonzales, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

Enmon, James V., Port Arthur, to marketing agent, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Evans, Donna G., Orange, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

Evans, Thomas C., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

F

Fernandez, Alejandro R., formerly of Willow Glen Station, to electrical maintenance supervisor, System Production, Beaumont.

Fernandez, James, Port Arthur, to supervisor-marketing, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Fontenot, Dale M., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Fowler, Calvin C. Jr., Baton Rouge, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Frue, Richard W., River Bend Station, to senior start up engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

G

Garner, Kenneth L., River Bend Station, to senior mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Garrene, Marvin R. III, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Gauthier, Carol J., Lafayette, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Gautreaux, Corbin P., Gonzales, to line foreman, Electric T&D.

Gerac, Lyle P., Beaumont, to administrator-Legal Dept., Legal Services.

Gibbs, Lloyd K., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Greer, Leslie J., Beaumont, to secretary, Executive Department.

Grossley, John E., Louisiana Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

H

Hamilton, Esquardo H., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hamm, Gene A., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Hanna, Neal D., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Gas Department.

Hantz, Joseph L., formerly of Nelson Coal, to chemist, Plant Production, Sabine Station.

Harrington, Michael A., River Bend Station, to senior radiological environmental analyst, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Hebert, Clofa C., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Hernandez, Terrance E., formerly of Willow Glen Station, to superintendent, Plant Production, Louisiana Station.

Hollingsworth, DeWitt C., Beaumont, to marketing agent, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Husband, Thomas P., Lafayette, apprentice, Electric T&D.

I

Ireland, Roberta M., Beaumont, to commercial development analyst, System Marketing & Consumer Services.

Ivy, Ted S., formerly of Sabine Station, to mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

J

Jackson, Andre L., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Jackson, Basil B., Beaumont, to construction & security coordinator, Electric T&D.

Jacobsen, Dan E., River Bend Station, to systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Jaetzold, Calvin J., Lake Charles, to director-employee relations/Louisiana, Human Resources.

Jeffcoat, Susan S., Beaumont, to production engineer, System Production.

Jernigan, Donald E., River Bend Station, to senior start up engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Johnson, Randy C., Sulphur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Johnson, Sheldon G., Baton Rouge, to senior energy auditor, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Johnson, William Jr., Calvert, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

K

Klco, Vincent S., River Bend Station, to senior mechanical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Kugler, Andrew J., River Bend Station, to senior systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

L

Leonard, Wayne D., River Bend Station, to systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Lockard, Robert D., River Bend Station, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Lundholm, Robert C., River Bend Station, to senior civil engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Lyons, Robert E., Baton Rouge, to pipeman-1st class, Gas Department.

M

Mason, Kimberly L., Beaumont, to lead research engineer, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

McFatter, Melinda, Beaumont, to staff accountant I, Accounting Services.

McNeal, Aaron, Lake Charles, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Melton, William E., Willow Glen Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Morrison, Jude R., Lafayette, to utility worker II, Electric T&D.

Moss, Kent O., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Murchison, Barry C., formerly of Beaumont, to supervisor-customer services, Division Accounting, Port Arthur.

N

Nolen, Thomas E., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

O

Oliphant, Thomas W., Beaumont, to nuclear fuels engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

O'Neill, Joseph S., Conroe, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

P

Paul, Robert M. Jr., Lafayette, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Phillips, Patrick K., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Pierce, Charmayne S., Beaumont, to confidential records clerk, Accounting Services.

Polk, Larry D., Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Pumphrey, Donald Z., Beaumont, to public affairs representative, Public Affairs.

R

Ricard, Darryl W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Roberts, Alvin E. Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Russell, Timothy J., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

S

Schaefer, Rebecca C., Beaumont, to staff accountant II, System Production.

Shaw, Stephen L., Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Small, Michael H., River Bend Station, to quality control inspector III, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Smith, Hulén C., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Smith, Mark A., formerly of Beaumont, to production engineer, Plant Production, Willow Glen Station.

Soileau, Sheila W., formerly of Nelson Coal, to employee relations associate, Human Resources, River Bend Station.

Soni, Allan S., River Bend Station, to senior electrical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Sullivan, Donald C., Baton Rouge, to marketing agent, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

T

Toohey, James E., Sabine Station, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Tyson, Candy A., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

V

Vincent, Chester J., formerly of Lake Charles Division Accounting, to staff accountant I, Plant Production, Nelson Station.

W

Wade, Annette H., Beaumont, to senior financial analyst, Financial Services.

Walker, Calvin G., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Washington, Clarence J., Baton Rouge, to section head, Division Accounting.

Watson, Carolyn L., Beaumont, to section head, Division Accounting.

Welch, Edward G., Beaumont, to supervisor-employee relations, Human Resources.

Welch, Henry C., formerly of Nelson Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production, Sabine Station.

Wells, Thomas G., Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Wheeler, Ellen B., Beaumont, to senior systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Williams, Bennie S., Port Arthur, to supervisor-consumer information services, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.

Woods, Warren A., Jennings, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Y

Yates, Karen K., Baton Rouge, to marketing agent, Division Marketing & Consumer Services.



John Lanham

Family skis in New Mexico

The Charles Lanham family of Conroe spent part of this March skiing in New Mexico.

Lanham, a utility man who has been with GSU for six years, reports that the couple's 5-year-old son, John, enjoyed his time on the slopes.



Ed and Becky Watson

Watsons begin political life

Ed and Becky Watson began a new life in the political arena July 1 when Ed became mayor of Lake Charles, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Monica Thomas.

Becky, supervisor-consumer information services in Lake Charles, worked hard during her husband's campaign and will continue her involvement at official functions, Thomas says.

Ed received 54 percent of the votes in the spring election. Following the election, the 41-year-old mayor-elect announced, "We've worked hard, but I'm the happiest I've ever been in my life. Now it is time to start working just as hard for our city."

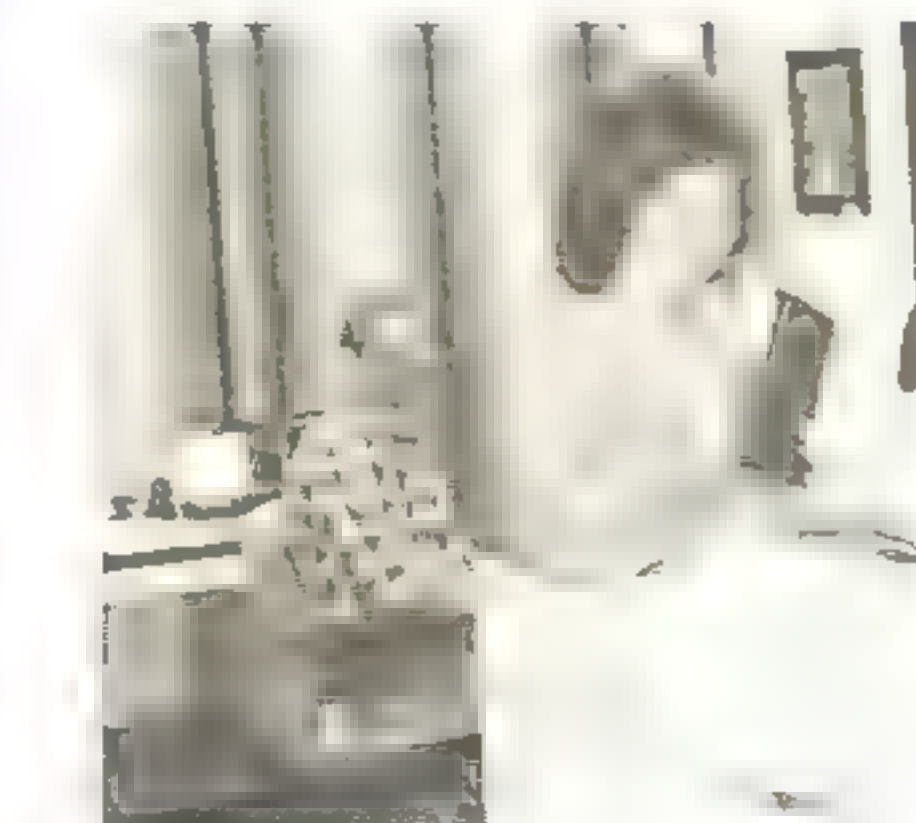


Justin Tyler Trahan

Baby son joins family

Justin Tyler Trahan weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20½ inches when he joined the Johnny A. and Becky Trahan family in Mauriceville on May 6.

The proud dad is an energy auditor in Orange who has been with GSU since 1982.



Tina Placker Hunt

Co-workers host surprise party

Co-workers in New Caney hosted a surprise party and dinner for Tina Placker shortly before her June 15 marriage to Michael Hunt.

The bride is a customer contact clerk.



Aaron Esthay is shown 4th from the left on the back row.

GSU kid plays on winning team

Aaron Esthay was part of a winning team when he played soccer with the Cards, a group of under-8-year-olds.

According to his mom, Bessie Esthay, employee relations associate in Lake Charles, the Cards were undefeated in the fall and spring seasons. They advanced to the semi-finals in Shreveport in April before being knocked out of competition in a 2-1 game. Aaron has been with the Cards for two years.



Big sister Chris Ringler holds Laura Lee.

Family adds new daughter

Pat and Kathy Ringler announce the birth of their second daughter, Laura Lee, on Feb. 18.

The proud dad, a civil engineer in Edison Plaza, reports that the little girl weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

She has an older sister, Christine Anne, who is now 2.

GSUer wins spot in Guinness records

Donnie Cole, serviceman-4th class in Port Arthur, won 1st place in the Region IX Championship Power Lifting Meet in Bastrop, Texas, on April 20.

According to *Plain Talks'* correspondent Barbara Broussard, Cole set three records — squat, 677 pounds; deadlift, 650 pounds; and total record for poundage, 1,642 pounds, in the 181-pound weight division.

Cole and another power lifter from Austin had a combined weight of 1,103 pounds and set a two-man deadlift lightweight division record. As a result, Cole and his partner, Gene Rogers, will be listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The GSUer's latest competition was supposed to take place on July 20 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in the National Drug-Free Power Lifting Championship.



Donnie Cole

Bruington cited for blood gifts

John Bruington, a materials coordinator in Conroe with almost seven years of service, was recently cited for having donated four gallons of blood during his lifetime.

His latest donation took place at Conroe High School's Senior Blood Drive, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Nina Wiley.



John Bruington

GSUers visit flea market

In late March, seven GSU employees from Orange visited the nationally-famous flea market in Canton, Texas, reports Kitty Prouse, *Plain Talks'* correspondent.

The group arrived at the huge east Texas flea market about the same time as a chilling spring thunderstorm. Prouse notes, "What they didn't buy, they touched!"

Making the trip were Juliette "Cha Cha" Holsomback, Prouse, Brenda Christian, Lucy Sciarillo, Nancy Thibodaux, Kami Wright and Kathy Bourgeois.



Shown at the flea market are (from left) Holsomback, Prouse, Christian, Sciarillo, Thibodaux, Wright and Bourgeois.

Couple wins bass tourney

Chris and Florence "Tee-Niney" Day won 1st place in the Pelican Bass Club's annual Husband and Wife Tournament.

Tee-Niney, a departmental clerk in Baton Rouge, reports that they won with 52 pounds of pan fish for the one-day event at Belle River Spillway.



Tee-Niney Day

Wedding joins two GSU families

Michelle Bridges married Chris Allen Champagne June 1 in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Vidor.

The bride, a junior at Lamar University, is the daughter of Micky Bridges, supervisor-accounting and administration at Sabine Station.

Her husband is an engineering assistant in Edison Plaza.



Michelle Bridges Champagne



Rebecca Erin Bagley

Parents announce infant daughter

Charles "Chuck" and Sandy Bagley of Sulphur announce the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Erin, on April 15.

The father, a substation mechanic-2nd class in Lake Charles, reports that the little girl weighed 7 pounds, 13½ ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.



Bill Fox (left) enjoys the gumbo luncheon with Cynthia Burch and Danny Syphrett.

Gumbo feeds Dayton office

Dayton office clerk Carolyn LaChapelle cooked up her special chicken-sausage-crab gumbo to serve co-workers at a luncheon held last May. In addition to about 20 Dayton employees, Carolyn's gumbo attracted several guests who, according to *Plain Talks'* correspondent Lynda Kapalski, "just happened by."

Huntsville VOE earns awards

Employees in the Huntsville office are proud of VOE student Cindy Saldana, according to *Plain Talks'* correspondent Carol Payne. Cindy, who is a Huntsville High School student, received two honors at the school's vocational banquet held in April. She was named outstanding VOE student and also received an award for good attendance.



Cindy Saldana

Baby boy joins family

Kevin Charles Roberts joined the Charlie and Regina Roberts family of Zachary on June 5.

The little boy has one sister, 5-year-old Tiffany.

Little Kevin weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 21½ inches at birth, reports his dad, who is a nuclear training representative-nuclear at River Bend Station.



Kevin Roberts

Minding the store

By Susan Gilley

At age 26, Maribeth Moore supervises eight people and is responsible for a storeroom and yard holding about \$4.8 million worth of inventory.

The responsibility may be awesome, but Moore is not overwhelmed by the job. She firmly believes that hard work pays off — a concept she picked up from her father's example. "My dad's a self-made man. He was raised during the Depression and quit school to join the Army. While in the service, he finished high school, but didn't get all the education he would have liked to have had. But he really did well for himself and his family." From her mother, a special education teacher, Moore may have learned compassion — an important attribute for managing people. Her work philosophy is based on the idea that success results from "teamwork and cooperation — but you've got to have fun, too."

Moore began her GSU career in 1979 as a meter reader in Mid-County, then moved to the storeroom in Port Arthur for three years and on to the Orange storeroom for two years before transferring to Conroe in 1984.

The move was prompted by her husband's decision to return to school to study computer science and business. He enrolled in Sam Houston State University once the couple resettled in Conroe. "The role reversal is fine for us," Moore says. A baby son, Matthew, joined the family early this year, and the new mother admits there were some big adjustments.

"For one thing, my career became even more important. I want to go back to school myself. There's still a lot that I want to learn," she notes. Most surprising to Moore, however, was the lack of control a parent has over an infant's timetable. The baby,

she found, did not fit into neat little schedules.

She's already looking ahead to Matthew's college days. "I'm hoping that my husband and I will be a good influence on him, educationally speaking. He'll grow up knowing how important we think an education is."

Nevertheless, Moore does not discount the importance of on-the-job training. She even believes that may be the only way to fully understand the storeroom business at GSU, which involves up to 2,600 items, not counting from 300 to 400 different kinds of transformers.

Safety, Moore insists, is as much a concern in her job area as it is in any other GSU department.

"Lifting is a prime safety concern, along with vehicle safety, climbing on ladders and wearing gloves and hard hats. I just want people to realize that the individual has the most to lose when he or she is involved in an unnecessary accident. Sure, the family and the co-workers suffer, but the injured person suffers the

most," Moore continues.

On the job, Moore's biggest challenge now is to reduce inventory in accordance with GSU policy. Pointing out that the storeroom works closely with purchasing to ensure quick delivery, Moore says there must be enough equipment or parts readily available to weather a storm or other emergency situation.

That very challenge is directly related to the satisfaction she gets from doing her job. "We're an important link in getting jobs done. The way we (in the storeroom and yard) do our job can affect efficiency and costs," she asserts. Equally important, she adds, "is the cooperation we get from my supervisor, the other departments and higher management in the Western Division and in Beaumont."

The payoff? "It gives us all a little bit of pride when we can see something and know we were instrumental in building the job and providing customers with power."



Maribeth Moore (right) observes as Peggy Harrell, storeroom assistant, places a transformer in the yard.

I'd rather be sailing

by Cheryl Crawford

For Johnny Fontenot, sailing is not the relaxing hobby some might think it would be.

Fontenot, an electrician-2nd class at Nelson Coal, races a J-24, a sleekly-designed, 24-foot racing yacht. The hand-laid, balsacore craft features a fiberglass hull.

According to Fontenot, "The J-24 is powered strictly by the wind and controlled totally by the highly-concentrative skill of a five-man racing crew." Fontenot is the foredeck man, a role he describes as "the most exciting position on the boat."

"There is something about not knowing whether the next maneuver will leave you standing, lying down or overboard that keeps your adrenalin flowing," Fontenot comments laughingly.

Although Fontenot has sailed for only four years, he always dreamed of racing. About a year ago, a Lake Charles woman noticed the sailboat on the gold neck chain he wore and asked if he was interested in the sport. She then asked, "Would you be interested in racing a J-24?" After he caught his breath, Fontenot recalls, he exclaimed, "Sure, you bet!" A few crew meetings and practices later, Fontenot took his present position on the J-24, the "Class Act." Owners of the boat are Tommy and Jan Gayle.

The crew has competed in New Orleans, Houston, Shreveport and Lake Charles. However, Fontenot is probably proudest of the performance of the boat and crew during this year's Contraband Days celebration in Lake Charles.



Johnny Fontenot, an electrician-2nd class at Nelson Coal, serves as the foredeck man in the crew of this J-24, the Class Act (above). The 24-foot yacht is owned by Tommy and Jan Gayle.

After appearing in the sailboat regatta, the boat competed in five scheduled races. Each race varies in length, but is usually from 1½ to 2 miles. According to Fontenot, the most difficult part of the race is flying the spinnaker (a large triangular sail) and laying the marks. But the "Class Act" came out 1st in each race.

In years to come, reveals Fontenot, he would like to race in at least one World's Cup race for J-24s and at least one offshore race on a 45- to 55-foot yacht.

Most of all, he says, "I'd like to own my own J-24."



Fontenot (above) hopes to "own my own J-24" someday.

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Time out for sports



Photo by Susan Gilley

When James E. "Jim" Dowies graduated from the University of Texas in the early 1950s, he vowed to stay involved in sports.

But the former UT All-American basketball player heeded the advice of his coach. "The last thing my college coach ever told me was, 'Don't be a coach.' My way of giving a little bit back to the sports that they gave to me was to become a referee," Dowies reveals.

The supervisor-payment processing has refereed for high school basketball and football games for 32 years — and at the college level for the past six years.

His work begins long before the start of the season as he attends workshops to update his knowledge of rules and signals. The hobby takes him out of town almost every weekend.

"Younger officials sometimes find the criticism (from fans) stressful, but you get used to it," Dowies notes. Besides, he adds, his mentally-demanding desk job at GSU and the physically-demanding job of refereeing after-hours are perfect complements.